

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The color image processing apparatus of the present invention selects, on the basis of a moving average number  $n$  of pixels calculated by a predetermined numerical formula with respect to any notable pixel  $i$ ,  $n$  number of reference pixels  $j$  located before and after the notable pixel  $i$ , and calculates an absolute value of a difference between an output of respective of the selected reference pixels  $j$  and that of the notable pixel  $i$ . Then, a moving average processing is executed by using only some reference pixels  $j$  of which the absolute value of the difference between each of their output levels and the output level of the notable pixel  $i$  is smaller than a threshold value.